Circular Letter #42.

October 7, 1922.

Rural Schools.

GOVERNMENT OF PORTO RICO
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
SAN JUAN

ADDRESS ALL OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION
SAN JUAN, P. R.

Circular Letter No.42
October 7th, 1922.

To Supervisors of Schools.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

RURAL SCHOOLS.

Material Conditions.- You are hereby instructed to admit in the rural schools no more pupils than those who can be provided with seats and tables or desks to write upon. The habit of placing two pupils at a single desk should be stopped at once.

Insist on having adequate furniture for the rural schools. Boards should be framed and provided with a chalk tray. There should be a book-case in every rural school.

Separate latrines for boys and girls should be provided, or at least one with separate rooms for both sexes.

Living Conditions.- No new school should be opened in any barrio where there is not an adequate boarding place for the teacher. A teacher who is fed on bananas and codfish or any such food, or who has to cook her own meals after school hours, cannot possibly do the work that is required of her.

Circular Letter 92, 1921-22.- We are sending you enough copies of this circular letter to place one in the hands of each rural teacher of your ditrict. The responsibility of putting these instructions into practice rests solely with the supervisors.

English.- The following instructions will supplant the course of study in English for the rural schools.

First Grade.- First part of the Oral English Manual for First Grade.

Second grade.- Second part of the First Grade Manual.

Third Grade.- Review all of the First Grade Manual and first part of the Second Grade Manual. A new edition of thi

manual will be sent to the districts within a few weeks.

Though it was the opinion of the Department that third grade pupils should be taught to read in English, recent investigations have led us to believe that no time should be devoted to reading in this grade. The programs should be modified accordingly.

Tests.- Supervisors should test the results of teaching in every one of their visits to the country. It is not necessary to test all the grades nor all the subjects in one visit. A test on "Lectura" in the first grade or on "Composición" or English in the third or fourth grades need not take over 30 or 40 minutes. Work out the results of your tests on a per cent basis as this is the only way to measure results with any degree of accuracy.

Course of Study for Rural Schools.- Supervisors and Assistants should become familiar with the courses of study issued last year. If you have not read the course of study carefully, do so now. You could not better spend a day than in becoming familiar with the subject matter and methods of teaching required by the Department of its teachers. This is the best way to help your teachers efficiently. A complete course of study for the rural schools will be published as soon as completed.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) Juan B. Huyke
Commissioner of Education.

JCR/rs.